

British Gambling Prevalence Survey

2010

User Guide

A survey carried out on behalf of the Gambling Commission

National Centre for Social Research

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1. Background

The data file contains data from British Gambling Prevalence Study 2010 (BGPS 2010), the third Gambling Prevalence Study to be carried out in the UK and the first since the full implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 surveys. It is designed to monitor trends in gambling behaviour. The BGPS 2010 was commissioned by the Gambling Commission and carried out by the *National Centre for Social Research*

The aims of the BGPS 2010 were to:

- Measure the prevalence of participation in all forms of commercial and private gambling (including estimates of expenditure and information on venue).
- Estimate the prevalence of 'problem gambling' and look at which activities have the highest prevalence of 'problem gamblers'.
- Investigate the socio-demographic factors associated with gambling and with 'problem gambling'.
- Assess attitudes towards gambling.

2. Survey Design

The BGPS 2010 was designed to provide data at a national level about the population living in private households in England, Scotland and Wales. The sample for the BGPS 2010 was designed to be representative of all adults aged 16 and over living within private households.

A random sample of 9775 addresses were selected from the Post Code Addresses. Addresses were clustered into Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). Because PSUs were sampled with probability proportional to the numbers of addresses, and then a fixed number of addresses was sampled in each PSU, every address had an equal chance of being included in the sample. All adults aged 16 years or older at each household were eligible to take part in the study.

Interviewers visited each selected address and collected household information by conducting a short household interview with the Household Reference Person or their Spouse/Partner. Individual information about gambling behaviour was collected by Computer Assisted Self-Interview from every adult aged 16 and over resident within the household. Where the interviewer could not make contact with the eligible individual after repeat attempts, information was collected, where possible, at a later date using NatCen's

Telephone Unit. Overall, 5% of respondents complete the questionnaire via the telephone. The individual questionnaire was broadly split into 7 sections

- ◆ Section 1: Leisure activities
- ◆ Section 2: Participation in gambling activities in the past 12 months
- ◆ Section 3: Frequency, mode and gambling volume among past year gamblers
- ◆ Section 4: Participation in gambling activities in the past 7 days
- ◆ Section 5: Changes in gambling behaviour
- ◆ Section 6: Problem gambling
- ◆ Section 7: Reasons for gambling
- ◆ Section 8: Attitudes to gambling
- ◆ Section 9: Health and lifestyle correlates

Fieldwork was conducted between November 2009 and May 2010.

3. Documentation

The documentation has been organised into the following sections

- Interview (contains copies of the questionnaire)
- Data (contains the list of variables and derived variables)
- Other instructions (contains coding & editing instructions).

4. Using the data

The 2010 data consists of one file;

BGPSai.sav	7756 records	contains data for all individuals in co-operating households who completed the individual questionnaire. It also contains relevant information from the household questionnaire.
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4.1 Variables on the files

Each of the data files contain questionnaire variables (excluding variables used for administrative purposes) and derived variables. The variables included in the individual file are detailed in the “**List of Variables**” document in the data section of the documentation. This document is the best place to look at in order to plan your analysis. It includes:

- Major categories of variables (eg Participation in the past 12 months, Problem gambling screens)
- Sub categories of variables (eg Participation in the National Lottery Draw, Canadian Problem Gambling Severity Index)
- Source of each variable (eg Individual questionnaire, Household questionnaire, Derived variable)

Once you have decided which variables to include in your analysis, you can look up details of the question wording using the interview documentation (all variables on the data file are given by name in the copy of the interview provided), or using the “**Derived Variables Specification**” document in the data section of the documentation for derived variables.

4.2 Multicoded questions

Multicoded questions are stored in the archived BGPS data sets in two ways. Multicoded questions, where for example the respondent was instructed to "CODE ALL THAT APPLY" or where an open ended question has elicited more than one answer, were stored as array variables in the QUANTUM DBMS system which was used to read and edit the data.

However, in SPSS (which was used for analysis and archiving the data) multicoded variables must be stored as 'flat' variables, coded either **by mention** or **by category**. Questions coded by mention are stored as categorical variables where the complete value set is repeated in each of the variables. Questions coded by category are stored as indicator variables where each value in the set is stored as its own variable.

As an example, the question Highquals is a "CODE ALL THAT APPLY" question which asks respondents to code which qualifications they have from a precoded list. The code frame consists of thirteen values.

Recorded by mention, thirteen variables record (up to) thirteen possible responses to the question. These are identifiable because the number of the response code is added to the original variable name. For example, HighQuals1 is the variable which shows how many people mentioned that they had a higher degree, the first qualification presented in the code frame for the question HighQuals. HighQuals2 show those who mentioned that they degree level qualification, the second category in the original list, and so on.

Because a respondent could have replied with more than one answer, that respondent could have a value 1 for a number of these variables. The missing values are the same across all variables.

4.3 Missing values conventions

- 1 Not applicable: Used to signify that a particular variable did not apply to a given respondent usually because of internal routing. For example, those respondents who stated they had never gambled were not asked to complete the problem gambling screens.
- 8 Don't know, Can't say.
- 9 No answer/ Refused.

These conventions have also been applied to most of the derived variables. The derived variable specifications should be consulted for details as some derived variables include additional missing values.

5. Weighting variable

The data has been weighted to adjust for non-response and selection biases. The data was weighted in three stages. The first stage was to correct for dwelling unit and household selection probabilities, for the small number of addresses where either more than one dwelling unit or household was identified. The second stage calibrated the achieved household sample so that the distributions for age/sex and Government Office Region (GOR) matched the ONS 2009 mid-year population estimates. The third stage corrected for individual non-response within participating households.

Comparisons of the age and sex profile of the British population according to estimates from the Office of National Statistics show that the achieved sample was, in fact, a close reflection of the general population and therefore the weights were small. These weights have been combined into one weighting variable that has been included on the data (***weight***).

6. BGPS 2010 Report

Further information about the British Gambling Prevalence Study is available in:

Wardle H, Moody A, Spence S, Orford J, Volberg R, Jotangia D, Griffiths M, Hussey D and Dobbie F *British Gambling Prevalence Study 2010*. TSO, London, 2011.

Or on the Gambling Commission website:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/research_consultations/research/bgps.aspx